

GAU- 1744

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Holl et al.

: Group Art Unit: 1744

Serial No. 09/723,823

: Examiner: Not assigned

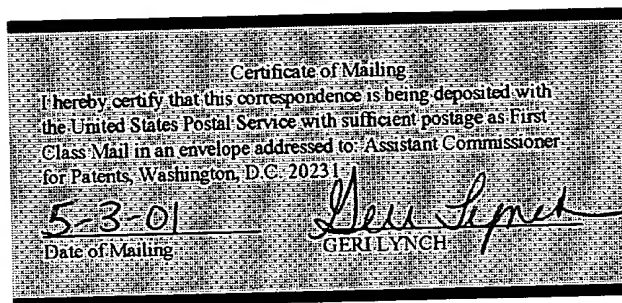
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Asst. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/428,839 filed October 28, 1999, a divisional of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/080,691 filed May 18, 1998. For the Examiner's convenience, copies of the 1449 forms in these cases are enclosed along with copies of the references.

Also, the Examiner is requested to consider the additional references, copies enclosed, which may qualify as prior art. For the Examiner's convenience, the references are listed on the attached Patent and Trademark Office form PTO-1449.

References listed in the PTO -1449 submitted herewith which do not specify the month of publication have a year of publication sufficiently earlier than the effective US filing date and any foreign priority date so that the particular month of publication is not in issue.

References known to the applicants have been listed on PTO-1449. That information is cited in a spirit of forthrightness and cooperation to enable the applicants to obtain that measure

of protection for the invention to which there is entitlement. However, no representation is made that the listed art actually qualifies as prior art under the patent statute and the mere use of PTO-1449 is not an admission that all listed references are prior art. No representation is made that applicants know of the best art.

It is believed this submission does not require the payment of a fee as it is being submitted prior to the issuance of an Office Action on the merits of the application. If this is incorrect, please deduct the appropriate fee from deposit account no. 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,



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